

"FREE"

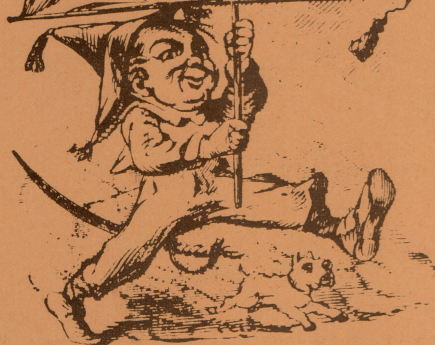
THE DEPOT★TOWN RAG

FEBRUARY, 1982

DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION

Next Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 7:30 p.m.
in DTA Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Next Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.



Funds solicited by the City's Community Development Department will make Riverside Park improvements slated to be finished by early summer. The first phase of upgrading will include a new system of pathways which will replace the crumbling road now in the center of the park. The path system will clearly distinguish between three main park areas: 1) the grove near the river at the south end; 2) the commons in the center of the existing park and 3) the meadow behind Detroit Edison in the southwest corner of the park.

A forty-five foot hexagonal deck will be suspended out over the Huron River and connected to a shoreline fishing dock. Already Heritage Festival planners are looking forward to using that desk as the stage area for entertainment events next August. In the second phase of development (not included in this financing) a footbridge will connect Depot Town to the dock-deck area. Also included in the next phase will be a large hexagonal pavillion to replace the present structure.

Considerable river bank improvement and rip-rapping with natural materials will complete the more than \$200,000 grant program.

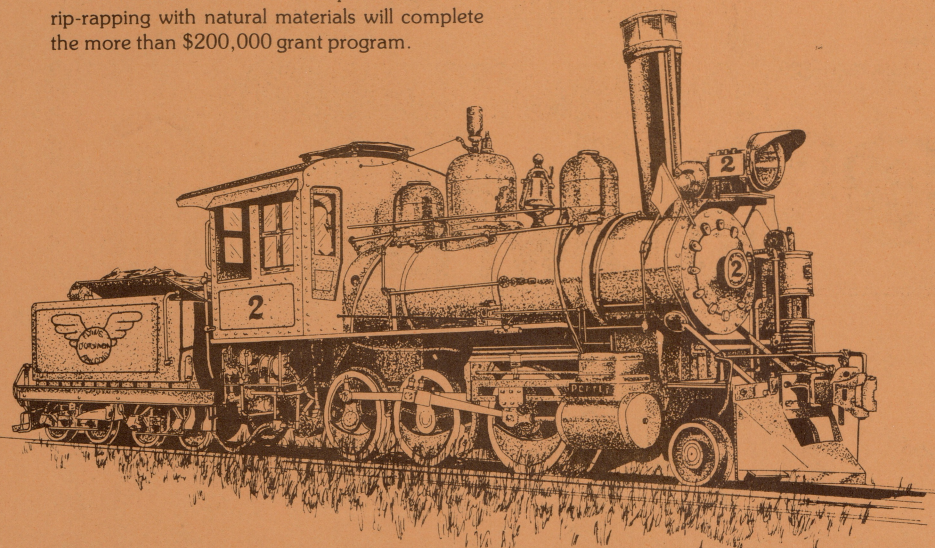
The monthly Jazz Concerts in the Freight House are proving to be so successful that there are already possible plans for a fitting finale . . .

So far Lyman Woodard and Dr. Morris Lawrence of the Washtenaw Community College Jazz Ensemble have agreed to participate in the festival which could include a group from each regularly scheduled show through the season. A live album, as well as other exciting possibilities are being discussed.

♪ About 500 season tickets are sold for the concerts. This leaves just over 200 individual tickets to be sold prior to each show. Individual tickets will go on sale at most Depot Town shops one week prior to the concert date, and what tickets are left will be sold at the door. Get yours early and avoid the scalpers!

March 13 Jim Dapogny's Little Chicago
Jazz Band and Misbehavin'
April 10 Boogie Woogie Red and
The Alberta Adams Blues Band
May 8 Ragtime Charlie and Sisters
Kate, The Cakewalkin' Band,
Armstrong and Bogan, and more.

YPSILANTI YESTERYEAR HERITAGE FESTIVAL KICKOFF



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

DEPOT PLAN ON RIGHT TRACK

Unitec Construction Services, Inc., an Ann Arbor-based development firm has studied the problem of renovating the 120-year-old rail passenger station and come up with ideas for financing the project as well as a possible architectural plan by Ypsilanti resident Denis C. Schmiedeke.

Charles Lauer, a Unitec representative, has presented his company's plan to the Ypsilanti Futures, Inc., the Depot Town Association and the Save The Depot Task Force, receiving unanimous votes of support from all three. The next step is the support of the Ypsilanti City Council, and Lauer plans to make a detailed presentation to the Council on February 15.

"A restaurant is the most practical and promising use for the depot," explained Lauer at the most recent presentation of the plan. He noted that the cost of renovating the building would be easily twice the cost of erecting a new structure, and is therefore recommending that state and federal grants be secured to cover the cost of landscaping and all exterior and interior alterations.

The building could then be offered to a restaurateur who would have to provide merely the kitchen equipment, seating and decorative touches. This option of financing the reconstruction would enable the city to retain rights to the building, and Lauer says, will help ensure a quality operation.

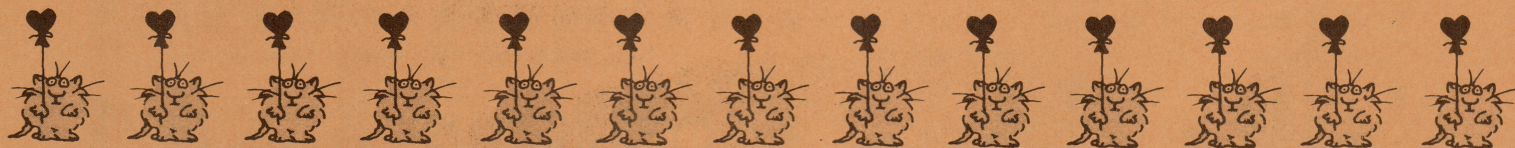
The plans also allow for the restoring of the floral gardens on the grounds that made our depot, in its prime, the most beautiful in the Midwest.



**CAUSE – CAUSE FOR
CELEBRATION!
CELEBRATION!**

Our good friend Ike Rednour of **Ike's Barber Shop** celebrates two anniversaries February 9. One is his wedding anniversary. Ike and his wife, Bessie, have been married for 30 years. The other anniversary is the 23rd year of **Ike's Barber Shop** at 40 E. Cross . . . 23 years in Depot Town! And you think *you* have stories to tell?

Congratulations, Ike!



• Rumors of a cold winter have Miller's Ice Cream closed for the month of February. The scoop is they will re-open on March 1.

• Speaking of Miller's Ice Cream, one of Depot Town's finest buildings is scheduled for a major facelift this spring. The Newell Block, which presently houses Miller's, Ike's Barber Shop, and Mrs. Hall, will be completely prepped and painted. Owners Rex and Sally Ritchie are also planning to remove the 1950s facade on street level and restore it to its 1860s splendor.

• A coupon book filled with discounts from Depot Town merchants will be assembled and distributed free around Ypsi/Ann Arbor this spring during Boomer Days.

• What do Boomer Days, a May Day celebration, an Easter Egg Hunt and a Kite Flying Contest all have in common? They are just a few of the activities planned for this spring on our block.

• An apology to the very present **B & D** Plumbing at E. Cross. The January *Rag* erred in referring to the former **B & D Plumbing** building.

RAGTIME

RAGTIME

• The Depot Town Merchants Points and Contacts List, a directory of local businesses, was distributed in the midst of last weeks blizzard. If you haven't received your copy, see Sally Richie.

• The Depot Town Association was the proud recipient of the 1982 Community Art Award from the Ypsilanti Arts Council. "For outstanding contribution to the arts by an organization."

• We've all head of those that would walk a mile for a Camel; but could it be that some folks will be running ten kilometers for a Miller's Beer? More details about the "Great Train Race" in upcoming Rags.

• At the January D.T.A. meeting, Ray Packer of the Health Emporium suggested a Midnight Sidewalk Sale after the last scheduled Jazz Concert in May. Those who were there thought it was a great idea and would tie in with this spring's Boomer Days.

• In its January issue, **Monthly Detroit Magazine** rated **Haab's Restaurant** as serving Detroit's best steak. Amidst such company as **Carl's** and **The London Chop House**, the article concluded that "for Detroit's best steak you have to drive to Ypsilanti." Heck, we knew that.

• Gerry Meadows Follet House, The Alibi Bar, and newly-opened Black Bart's Pizza are just a few of the others planning big exterior renovations this spring.

• Oh Boy! Babies! Depot Town's population exploded by two in January with the birth of Cammie Woods' daughter, Lindsay Marie, on the 2nd, and Carol and David Zarr's son on the 31st.

• What's all this talk about the 1988 Super Bowl in Ypsilanti's Rynearson Stadium?

SEEK AND FIND

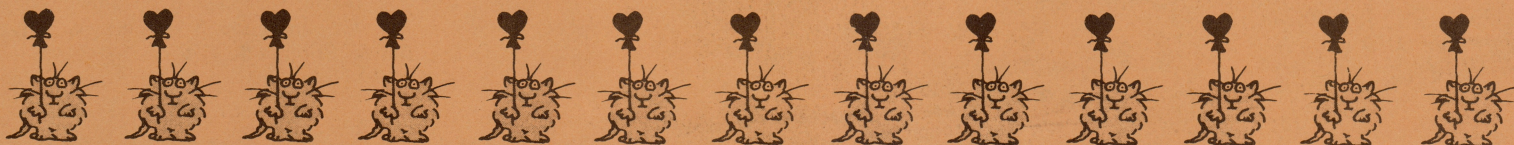
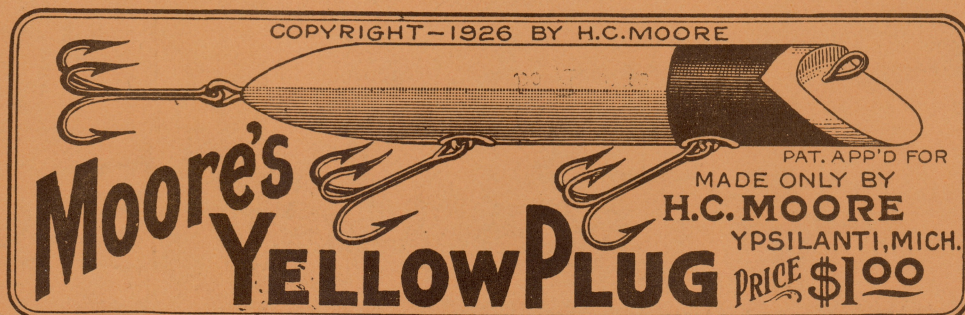
The puzzle below contains 17 businesses in Depot Town. Honest. Can you find them all?

M M U I R O P M E H T L A E H
I H I O I R F S E L G A E O O
L S T L V T I X I S L M C T N
L U R L E D O Q K U A N I N S
E I A Y R R M T E I T I N A H
R N C T A Y E A Y T N C G R S
M E A E R O L N D S E E N U L
O G N W T O D L O N R E I A X
T R H R W Y L S B N N O H T O
O E S N O Y C N Y A A N T S B
R E A A R C E H T Z G E Y E L
S H L J K I S T I E R V R R I
R S F O S H H Y C Y A P E N A
O G P I N N X E R M B R V W M
D E P O T E X C H A N G E O T
D G I E E N E F R A M R E T O
F A R M E R S M A R K E T D P
L G A E K C A R T E D I S L E
I B I L A S R E V I L O A O D
P O H S R E B R A B S E K I R



**Old Town
RESTAURANT**

home-cooked
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Specials
in historic depot town
Ypsilanti





ANOTHER PAUL ZIMMERMAN, BY GEORGE!

Detroit News columnist George Cantor wrote an article in the December 30th **News** that described a recent visit to Ypsilanti that was less than glowing. In reference to Depot Town, Cantor wrote:

"I had the sense of a place that was trying hard to get out of the shadows but hadn't quite put it all together yet. I'd heard of Depot Town, for example, an area of vintage shops clustered around the old railroad station, which had been turned into a farmers' market.

It was pleasant enough - but no one was visiting the shops, and the market was very poorly lit. The area took a while to find, too. I had to literally find the railroad tracks first and follow them to the depot. If there were any directional signs, I didn't see them."

After reading the article a couple of times, we listed our defensive options. We could 1) quit buying the **News** as a ridiculously ineffective protest; 2) hang a likeness of Cantor in effigy from the tree in the **Farmers' Market** courtyard; 3) write a letter inviting G.C. back for a second look or 4) drop back ten yards and punt. We opted for the latter.

Everybody knew what they wanted to say, but who could get that perfect blend of sarcasm and sincerity?

That's right.

To the Editor, **The Detroit News**:

In a recent column your George Cantor says he stopped for lunch in our small city of Ypsilanti while staying in Ann Arbor. We're not surprised that he found Haab's a unique restaurant with a flavor distinctly different from downtown Detroit and its environs. We're also happy that Cantor recognized our landmark water tower and the Spaghetti Bender and Old China for their well-deserved reputations. We are concerned, however, for Mr. Cantor's whining disappointment over the rest of our city. Cantor seems to be among those who breeze by on the way to a football tailgate party but are overpowered by such events as Greek theatre.

He says nothing in the town look familiar and this puzzles us. We look very familiar to the Nineteenth Century. In fact, our large Historic District demands it. If Cantor sought a mid-western Disneyland he has definitely in the wrong town and we can imagine his disappointment.

Cantor missed our low-key signage but was creative enough to follow the railroad tracks to Depot Town — Ypsilanti's version of the Renaissance Center: a rehabilitated railroad commercial district saved by our own effort and investment without putting the rest of the city out of business.

Cantor toured the old Michigan Central Railroad Depot and complains of dim lighting in the **Farmers' Market** there. No wonder. There are NO LIGHTS in the depot. That's next on our list of historic buildings to rehabilitate. It's been empty for twenty years. The Market is across the tracks in the lovely, one-hundred-year-old freight house. It's not nearly as brightly lit as a suburban shopping center, has no air conditioning and is partly heated by pot-bellied wood stoves. Cantor probably wouldn't like it over there either. The produce prices and quality would be quite a departure, as well.

Although Cantor says he found no one in Depot Town's "vintage shops", the local merchants found this their best holiday season since the days when twenty-six passenger trains stopped here daily. This is the only central business district we know where new shops are moving in and old businesses are expanding.

If Cantor's research for "downtown Livonia" or a far-flung trip to the West Coast of Michigan should take him all the way to the eastern province of Washtenaw County again in the next fifteen years, he may find Ypsilanti even more "invisible". We'll probably be so unlike Detroit and Ann Arbor that he won't like us at all. Many do, however, as was evidenced by the 150,000 folks who celebrated last summer's Yesteryear Heritage Festival here. That unique community event included a circus parade, old-fashioned crafts demonstrations, local organization fund-raising booths, the Wallenda's high wire act, concerts in the park, chicken dinners, pancake breakfasts and a whole lot more corny happenings probably of little interest to George Cantor. There's very little of the phony-colony suburb here.

Nothing in Ypsilanti looked familiar to Cantor except the water tower? Hmmm. He's wearing that slip. We think we'll recognize him on his next junket. Rather than suggest that your controller check George's vouchers to see if he really did visit Ypsilanti, may we suggest a return trip? Call Sally Richie at Miller's Ice Cream Parlor (485-7546) and she'll save tickets to our next Jazz Concert and will be happy to introduce him to some real Renaissance men and women.

Finally, for those who like to knock "Ypsi", maybe they should compare Ann (arbor) to Det (roit) or, for that matter, Det to Chi or even New.

Very locally yours,

Tom Dodd

FOCUS ON RIVER ART WORKS

Locals who keep tabs on Depot Town have noticed a burgeoning expansion at River Art Works, 48-50 East Cross, of late. In the first place, the store front at 48 has exactly doubled its capacity by adding space in neighboring 50. In addition, a new River Art Worker has been added in the person of Jeff White.

Jeff brings to R.A.W. a background of varied interests. A graduate of Eastern's school of music, he spent five years working with precision tolerance tools before deciding he liked Depot Town, and the people in it, enough to live and work here.

He has a good eye for color, an active imagination and is no stranger to the meticulous detail involved in the framing craft.

Paul Feters, the original River Art Worker, comes from a background of photography and with new space available is now engaged in setting up a studio for product, portrait and restoration photography.

David Davis, the business end of R.A.W. enjoys the chess game like strategies involved in planning, directing, equipping and funding ones own business. Like Paul and Jeff, David is a graduate of EMU, and works full time as a buyer for Ann Arbor's Midwest Foods.

River Art Works provides a gallery of local artists, a fine framing service, workshops in the arts and crafts, a quality photography service and a genuine living and working commitment to the neighborhood.

Jeff, David and Paul are all glad to be here, and we're glad to have them.



SOLUTION TO SEEK AND FIND

Bar-Gan Rental
City Body
Depot Exchange
Depot Mail Box
Eagles
Everything Nice
Farmers' Market
Health Emporium
Hons
Ike's Barber Shop
Miller Motors
Old Town Restaurant
Oliver's Alibi
River Art Works
Rosemary's Corner
Shear Genius
Sidetrack



Ice removal: You can now hire a team of out-of-work auto executives to run up and down your sidewalk in their golf shoes.

Gundon

DETROIT, MI 48201

There is now hope for those of us who have been overindulging on the **Sidetrack's** fried mushrooms, breakfast specials at the **Old Town**, and popcorn by the handful at the **Alibi**. We can melt winter's extra pounds away at Linda Lemke's Aerobic Dance Classes on Wednesday afternoons at the **Farmers' Market**. The fee will be nominal and depend on the number of people who register. Interested parties can sign up for the class at the Market, or can call 483-1480 on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

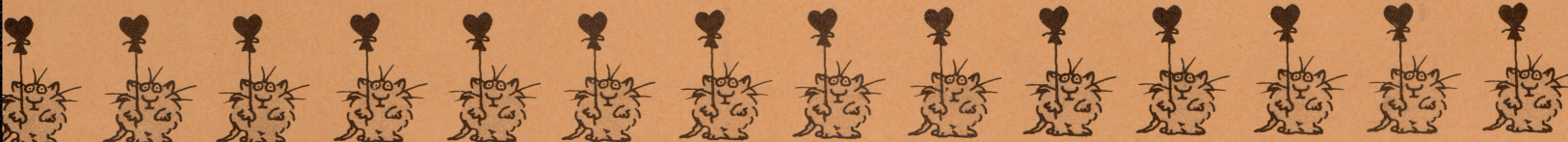
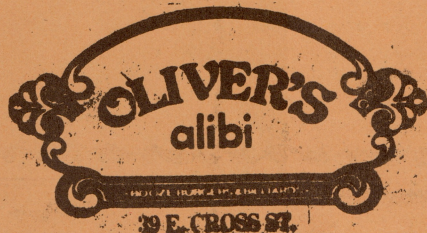
gently used women's clothes

25 E. Cross St.

483-8150

21 E. Cross Street

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FREE

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY